

Application No. 10/805,161
Amendment A
Reply to Office Action of November 23, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing a porous element on a surface to be stabilized;
depositing a flowable material onto the porous element, said flowable material entering openings defined within said porous element, said flowable material comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric bonding material; and

allowing the flowable material to solidify ~~set~~ within said openings, the porous element and the solidified ~~set~~ flowable material forming a microclimate on said surface favorable to growth of vegetation.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing a flowable material is performed after the step of disposing the porous element on the surface to be stabilized.

Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of fastening the porous element onto the surface to be stabilized before the step of depositing the flowable material.

Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises the step of injecting the flowable material into the porous element.

Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the step

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of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using conventional seeding apparatus.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material to the porous element. ~~porous element.~~

Claim 7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material ~~a mulching material to~~ into the porous element.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a reinforced fiber matting.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a three-dimensional, cellular matting.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a substantially two-dimensional netting material.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of disposing comprises securing the porous element to the surface prior to the step of depositing.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil erosion, the system comprising:

a porous element disposed on the ~~the~~ surface to be stabilized; and

a solidified fiber matrix material incorporated within the porous element and comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric

material;

the system being made by anchoring the porous element to the surface and thereafter injecting a ~~fluid~~ the matrix material into the porous element while the matrix material is in a fluid state and thereafter allowing the ~~fluid~~ matrix material to [[set]] solidify within openings defined within the porous element.

Claim 14. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element is a cellular matting.

Claim 15. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element comprises a netting material.

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (new) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element comprises a three-dimensional erosion control blanket.

Claim 18. (new) A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil erosion, the system comprising:

a three-dimensional fibrous erosion control blanket disposed on a surface; and

a solidified matrix material bonded to and incorporated within the blanket;

the system being made by placing the fibrous erosion control blanket on a surface prone to erosion without the matrix material being incorporated within the blanket, and thereafter hydraulically applying the matrix material to the blanket while the matrix material is in a fluid state, and thereafter allowing the matrix material to solidify within the blanket.

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Claim 19 (new) The system of claim 18 wherein the matrix material comprises a hydromulch.

Claim 20 (new) The system of claim 18 wherein the matrix material comprises a polymeric component.

Claim 21. (new) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using hydraulic mulching apparatus.

Claim 22. (new) The method of claim 13 wherein the matrix material is injected into the porous element using hydraulic mulching apparatus.